

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

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R 161849Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL HAMILTON
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS

SUBJECT: TUNA CONSULTATIONS

1. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO, COSTA RICA, AND THE UNITED STATES ON SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATING A NEW TREATY TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN WERE HELD IN MEXICO CITY AUGUST 8-10. NEARLY ALL MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS, I.E. NATURE AND SCOPE OF ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, ENFORCEMENT, AND ALLOCATIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL AMONG THE DELEGATIONS, AND WRITTEN POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES WERE TABLED BY ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS. AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE ISSUES WAS ACHIEVED. A WRITTEN REPORT DETAILING THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED WAS PREPARED, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE REPORT IS NOT BINDING AND ONLY REPRESENTS A GUIDELINE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. COPIES OF REPORT ARE BEING CABLED SEPARATELY TO ALL POSTS. OTTAWA, PARIS, TOKYO, MANAGUA, AND PANAMA SHOULD PASS COPY OF REPORT TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL OTHER POSTS MAY PASS HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS COPY OF REPORT AT DISCRETION OF POST.

2. ATMOSPHERICS AT MEXICO CITY MEETING WERE PARTICULARLY GOOD AND US DELEGATION WAS PLEASED AT OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS. WHILE SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WAS NOT ACHIEVED ON MOST OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES, DIFFERENCES WERE NARROWED ON NEARLY ALL ISSUES INVOLVED, IN SOME CASES RATHER SUBSTANTIALLY. SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REMAIN, HOWEVER, ON QUESTION OF COASTAL STATE ALLOCATIONS, WHICH IS THE MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF AGREEMENT CAN EVENTUALLY BE REACHED ON THIS QUESTION, THERE STILL WOULD REMAIN THE PROBLEM OF HAVING AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN A TIMELY FASHION, SINCE WITHDRAWAL OF MEXICO AND COSTA RICA FROM IATTC, PARTICULARLY MEXICO, WILL MOST LIKELY TAKE PLACE BEFORE ANY TREATY COULD BE FINALIZED, AND QUESTION OF ACCESS FOR U.S. FISHERMEN TO THOSE COUNTRIES ZONES WILL ARISE. IF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON NEW TREATY BEFORE END OF YEAR, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT SEEM UNREASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT WAY CANNOT BE FOUND TO AVOID PROBLEM OF ACCESS DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

3. REGARDING NEXT STEP IN TUNA NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS AGREED AMONG DELEGATIONS IN MEXICO CITY THAT THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONSULT BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST WITH RESPECT TO WHAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE.

4. FOR PANAMA AND MANAGUA - IN PASSING REPORT OF MEETING TO HOST GOVERNMENTS, EMBASSIES SHOULD MAKE POINT THAT USG REGRETS FACT THAT GOP AND GON WERE NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN MEXICO CITY MEETING. USG SUGGESTED TO

MEXICO THAT GOP AND GON BE INVITED, BUT, FOR REASONS NOT
COMPLETELY CLEAR TO DEPT., MEXICO WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF
THEIR PARTICIPATION. CHRISTOPHER

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